THE PRESIDENT TO ACT.

DETERMINED TO RECOGNIZE THE INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA.

War in Cuba Must Sad-The Blowing Cp of the Matne to Be Considered Separately-The President Still Uninformed, Officially at Least, of the Findings of the Court of Inquiry-Their Report to Be nest to Congress and Referred to the Foreign Affaire Committees. The President Will Waste Se Time to Asking Indomntty for the Lors of the Maine and Will Not Consent to Submit the Question as to Spain's Meaponsibility to Arbitration.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—This has been a day of important conferences. The President has consulted with the members of his Cabinet, with many of the leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives, and with several distinguished callers not in public life. Speaker Reed was one of the early visitors, and spent some time with the President. Soon after he left the White House Chairman Hitt of the House Committree on Foreign Relations and Schator Hale, Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, strived. Later in the day Senator Davis. Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, had a long talk with the President in his office. The object of these conferences was undoubtedly to arrange a programme for Congress to follow after submission of the report of the Naval Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate the cause which wrecked the battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana on the night of Feb. 15 last.

It was arranged that when the report is preso ted to the Senate Mr. Davis will move to teler it, together with the President's accomno ving message, to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and that in the House Chairman Hitt will make a like motion. There is no doubt that both motions will be agreed to, and probably without debate, although the Democrats, assisted possibly by radical advocates of Caban independence, may ask for immediate sction of some sort. This the President hopes will not take place. This is all that is positively known now as to the probable action of Congress, and, if those who talked with the President to-day are to be believed, there is nothing else to be learned at present. They represent the President as being still undetermined in his own mind as to whta course to pursue with regard to the report, as he is still, officially at least, uninformed as to the nature of the fludings of the Board of Inquiry.

It is difficult to believe that the President and the members of his Cabinet have not received officially an intimation as to the verdict of the court, but more than one member of the Cabinet said to-day that such is the fact. But whether the President does or does not know the contents of the report now on the way to Washington in the possession of Lieutenant-Commander Marix, Judge-Advocate of the Naval Court, there seems to be no reason to doubt that he has not yet prepared, even in outline, the message with which he will accompany the report to Congress. It seems to be the almost unanimous opinion of those with whom the President has talked during the past week that he will not decide upon his course of action until be has received and digested the text of the report. For this purpose he will hold it a day or two, and it may not, therefore, reach Congress during the present week. Gen. Greavenor of Ohlo, who is as close to the President as any man in the House, said to a reporter of THE SEX this afternoon who had asked for his opinion as to the course that would be pur sued in the House when the report of the Maine disaster was received:

'It will go to the Committee on Foreign Af fairs, if I have my way, and I see no reason to doubt that that is what will be done."

"How long will it remain there !" Ob, there is nothing to determine that, but the action of the House will depend upon the nature of the report. If the board shall report that Spain was concerned in blowing up the ship, why, we will declare war right here. But I have no idea that such a report will be made." When do you look for the report to be made?" expect it will be here in a day or two."

in the House!" I mean that the President will probably have it in that time. He will have to hold it long enough for him to prepare a message to accom by the report that the nations of the world can not criticise nor cavil at. It may not, therefore, te ich Congress for a day or two after being re ceived by the President-possibly not until next week, although I look for it before then."

One matter, however, has been decided upon and it is more important than all other considerations. The President has determined to rec ognize the independence of Cuba. Whether he will do this in a week, or in a month, or in two months, the developments of the next week will determine. Mr. McKinley, it is now known. regards the situation growing out of the destruction of the Maine and the controversy caused by the desire of the United States to end the Cuban war and bring about Cuban independence as two entirely distinct propositions. The President believes that the blowing up of the Maine in the harbor of Havana has no more relation to the general Cuban question coming over to him from the last Administraion than if the Maine had been destroyed in the harbor of Queenstown. He will, therefore, deal with the two subjects in a different way, and at different times, decision in one having no reference whatever to the decision in the other, although circumstances may bring them to a settlement simultaneously. As far as the President has outlined a programme, it provides for sending the report of the Board of Inquiry to Congress within a res sonable time after it shall have been received by him, accompanied by a message stating the nature of his representations to Spain, based on the findings of the Naval Court.

After receiving the report, and before sub-mitting it to Congress, the President will cable the subject matter of its contents to the Spanish Government, through Minister Wood ford, and will, to use plain but graph-ic language, ask the Sagasta Ministry what they propose to do about it. The President does not now intend to ask for reparation or to demand an indemnity, but simply to give Spain an opportunity to make amends for such measure of guilt as may laid at her doors by the report of the Naval Court. If the reply of Spain shall be received in time to send it to Congress with his mes-sage, the President will include it. If not, it will be sent later, and in the meantime the report will remain in the possession of the Foreign Affairs Committee. An indemnity would be no satisfaction for the loss of the Maine, and the President will not waste time,

therefore, asking for it, especially as he thinks it would not be granted if he did. President McKinley fully appreciates the fact that the American people will not brook un-necessary delay on the part of Spain, and that Congress would not under any ofrcumstances agree to submit to arbitration the question as o Spain's responsibility for the blowing up of the Maine. It has been intimated to the President, however, that Spain will suggest the appointment of an international court of arbitraion, and he is not altogether satisfied that bpain would not be justified in asking for such mode of deciding between the contentions of the two boards. To submit the question to arbiration would of course prolong a decision in definitely, and this would not be tolerated by ongress or the people. The President's present idea, however, is that by announcing his Cuban policy, which contemplates the direct recogni-tion of Cuban independence, the controversy infolved in the blowing up of the Maine and the progress of the court of arbitration would be

swallowed up in the events that would follow.

war against the United States or commit an overt act that would compel the United States to declare war against her, or she would decide to avoid war by relinquishing Cuba There is no more doubt now of the President's determination to recognize Cuban's independ ence than there is of his inclination to recognize the right of Spain to ask for the appointment of an international board of arbitration to decide between the finding of the two Naval Boards of Inquiry. He has talked of these matters to-day freely with several of his distinguished visitors, and has asked for their advice. The proposition as to arbitration has received little serious attention by Congressmen, and the President found them unready to express decided opinions upon it. As to his purpose to recognize Cuban independence, however, it was almost unanimously indersed and applauded by

the Senators and Representatives who called

upon him. While waiting for the report of the Board of Inquiry and while deciding upon the precise terms of the communication to Spain asking the purpose of that Government in the way of reparation, the Administration is again in ac tive correspondence with the Sagasta Ministry. through Minister Woodford, as to the general question involved in the purpose to bring the war to end. A long cablegram, it is underwas sent to Minister Woodford last night, but the Administration declines to nake public its contents or its purport. The President is still hopeful that Spain find some way to relinquish Cuba and that war may thus be averted, and he is inclined to make every possible concession without going to the extent of yielding his purpose to carry out the evident desires of the American people to put an end to the Cuban war at once and to accomplish Cuban freedom. He has listened to the advocates of all sorts of propositions, and even to-day he gave a brief hear ing to Senetor Elkins and to Col. John J. Mc-Cook of New York, both of whom are interested in schemes for allowing the Cubans to purchase their independence, either with or without the assistance of the United States, but it is understood on very good authority that the President believes that Congress and the people are indisposed to listen to any proposition of this sort, and he himself agrees with the feeling that if Cuba is to be free and independent it should be by the voluntary act of Spain or the direct intervention of the United States.

Holding this view, the President is prepared to act promptly and decisively as soon as an opportunity has been given Spain to state what her final answer will be to the appeal of the American Government to end the war. The ne gotiations now in progress are intended to bring out Spain's final reply. Very little more time will be given after Congress shall have been acquainted with the findings of the Naval Court of Inquiry, and if Spain is not prepared at an early date to accept the good offices of the United States the recognition of independence will quickly follow.

ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE NAVY. A Torpede Bont Perchased in Beginned-An

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The untiring efforts of the Government agents to secure ships abroad have been r. warded by the purchase of another ressel, nothing more than a small torpedo boat, but worthy of addition to the American Navv. This little craft was bought in England and is now being prepared for shipment by steamer to the United States. The name of the firm from whom the boat was nurchased has not been ascertained. She is only 60 feet long and has a displacement of 50 tons. Her speed development is 20 knots an hour. The price paid was about \$100,000. Negotiations for the purchase of the Carlo Alberto, the Varese, the San Martino, the O'Higgins and some other armored vessels are still in progress, but with little hope of a satisfactory termination, except in the case

of one of the Italian ships, probably the Carlo Alberto. Secretary Long has decided to give the name Albany to the Brazilian cruiser Abrevali in honor of that city. He is undetermined in regard to changing the name of the gunboat yacht Mayflower, but will probcognomen. A ship has been selected for ambuance purposes, and plans are in readiness for her conversion immediately on authority from the Secretary of the Navy. Constructor Taylor has recently inspected the proposed vessel, and finds her well adapted for the purposes of a floating hospital. The vessel has a speed of about 17 knots, and, while the officials will not disclose her identity, it is believed she is one of the vessels of the Old Dominion line, plying between New York and Norfolk. If a second vessel is required, the department has selected

the ship it will take. The Mayflower, which the Navy Department purchased for a despatch vessel, is to be armored and heavily armed for a ship of her displacement. Work is to begin at once at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and will be completed within two weeks. The Mayflower, when in readiness for active service with the North Atlantic fleet, will be a more powerful vessel than gunboats of the Annapolis and Princeton class, which she so closely resembles, both in lines and rig. Around the sides of the Mayflower will be placed a band of steel seven-eighths of an inch thick, and extending from the water line well up on her freeboard. The protection will also extend pos below the load water mark. While this band would not serve to keep out rapid-figs shot, it would prevent machine gun projecties from getting very far into the hull, and otherwise will give additional strength to the sides. Her armament will be rather formidable for a vesse built fer yachting. It will consist of two 5-inch guns, possibly mounted on the forecastle and poop; five 12-pounders, arranged in broadside, and two torpedo tubes. The guns are ready to be installed, and will be drawn from the re-serve supply for auxiliaries at the Brooklyn

serve supply for auxiliaries at the Broaklyn Navy Yard. The torpedo tubes will be furnished from Newport.

The skipper who will have charge of this ship will be selected shortly from among a number of officers anxious to command a vessel so sumptuously fitted out. In war time the Mayflower could be detailed as flagship for an Admiral, owing to her high speed and ease of handling. The estimated amount required to convert the ship into a despatch vessel is \$22,000. She will probably be with the fleet in two weeks.

Our Warships at Jamaica.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUR KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 21.-The United States cruiser Cincinnati, from Barbadoes, and the gunboats Wilmington and Castine, from St. a, arrived at Port Antonio to-day. They will take a supply of coal at that place and

Castle Island Closed Boonuse of Military Prop-

BOSTON, Mass., March 21.-After being of to the public as a pleasure ground for more than five years, Castle Island was closed this morn by orders from Washington. Torpedo and mine work is being done at the Island, and defensive preparations of a secret nature are going on inside Fort Independence on the island. Signal buildings for the wig wag system are to be creeted at once on the coast from Cape Ann to Gay Head, each station to have telephone connection with military headquarters.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., March 21.-The two eight-inch guns and carriages for the new Fort Constitution have arrived and will be mounted as soon as possible. A large amount of ammuni-tion has also been received and there is more on the way. At the navy yard work on the Alli-ance and the United States steamship Essex is being rushed. The former will soon be ready for sea duty.

Take Notice that the April Emper's to now ready. You ought

Spain, it is thought, would immediately declare MAINE REPORT DELAYED.

NOT EXPECTED TO REACH THE PRESIDENT UNTIL WEDNESDAY.

Meantime Preparations Are Being Completed for Mobilinian the Larger Part of the Army at the Atlantic Seaconst Defences, and the Navy Is Tightening Its Corden of Warehips Around the Island of Cuba.

WASHINGTON, March 21.-Rear Admiral Si-

card telegraphed to-day from Key West to Secretary Long that the record of the proceedings and findings of the Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate the Maine disaster had been formally placed in his hands, and that he would forward it to the Navy Department. The report will be delivered to Secretary Long on Wednesday or Thursday, and those officially interested have been so informed. It is understood in official circles that an officer of the navy, in all probability Lieutenaut-Commander Marix, the Judge-Advocate of the Court, will leave Key West to-night or to-morrow for Washington with the record his possession. If he should eatch to-night's steamer to Tampa he will be able to deliver the record to Secretary Long on Wednesday evenng, but he may arrive here at such a late hour that the formal delivery may not be made until Thursday morning. Yesterday the information from Admiral Sicard was such that the Presient and Secretary Long were confident that the report would be in their custody on Wednes day at the latest, but as its delivery to the Admiral by Capt. Sampson at Key West was not made until this morning they were obliged to fix Wednesday as the earliest date.

With the formal copy of the report in the pos session of Admiral Sicard, who is technically the reviewing authority and has the right to make final disposition of it, there is nothing in regulations or practice to prevent him from telegraphing as much as he pleases to the Navy Department, Of course, the Admiral will not take upon himself the responsibility of exercising his complete jurisdiction in the case. This would be contrary to the wishes of the Administration and would result in an arbitrary suspension of Admiral Sicard's functions concerning the report, but officials of the Government who are familiar with every move in the Maine affair continue to assert that the President and Secretary Long do not know what conclusion the court has reached. Late this afternoon Cabinet officers were told as much when they inquired whether the findings of the court were known to the President. There is no doubt, however, that President McKinley and Secretary Long understand that the court will sustain the general understanding that the explosion which caused the destruction of the Maine was external and that preparations to meet the issue involved in such a verdict are being made.

With the shortening of the time within which the Government has to act there has been a renewal of activity in the military and naval arms of the Government which certainly equals and apparently exceeds the vigorous proceedings of the past fortnight in putting the country in a state of defence. All the artillery batteries, with the exception of a few on the Pacific coast, are being assigned to the new fortifications on the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, and arrangements have been perfected for a quick concentration at certain coast cities of the infantry and cavalry commands of the regular service within two hours after the receipt of orders from the Adjutant-General of the army. Nearly every intantry and cavalry organization will murch from its quarters to the trains and boats which will convey them to the place of mobilization. These orders have been prepared, and the understanding at the War Department is that their mobilization will not be delayed much

longer.
In the Navy Department a tightening of the cordon around Cuba is going on. To-day the cruiser Cincinnati and the gunboats Wilmington and Castine reached Port Antonio, Jamaica, the nearest point to the southeastern end of the island. They sailed from Barbadoes, under orders from the Navy Department, to take station at Port Anton where they will be in position to shut off supto ports on the southern coast of Cuba. So secretly was the movement executed that it did not become known. The Navy Department suppressed all information on the subject. The Brooklyn, now at Hampton Roads awaiting the other vessels which will compose the second strategical division of the North Atlantic squadron, will be augmented before the end of the week by her four pow-erful consorts. The Texas started north from Key West te-day and will be followed tonight or to-morrow by the Massachusetts. On Wednesday the Columbia and Minneapolis will have full complements of men and will sail from League Island to join the Brooklyn, Texas. and Massachusetts at Hampton Roads. Orders have been issued to the monitors Terror at New York and the Miantonomob at League Island to prepare for sea service. They will go to Port Royal or Charleston, joining the Amphitrite at the point selected, and picking up the Puritan off Norfolk. Two of the monitors will be at-

tached to Admiral Sicard's command. The others will probably remain at the rendezvous Meanwhile the Oregon is pounding under full speed from San Francisco on her long voy-age to Key West. The protection which presence on the Pacific coast afforded San Francisco, which, however, is declared to be in no danger of hostile attack, will be given by the monitors Monterey and Monadnock which sailed from San Diego for San Francisco to-day. They will be there as a precautionar; measure. The Bancroft is on her way to join the Hampton Roads division, and the Helens is making a race against time for Key West. The San Francisco is hurrying prepara-tions for departure from Gravesend with the New Orleans, formerly the Brazilian cruise Amazonas. A hospital ship has been selected colliers and transports will be purchased this week, and the yacht Mayflower is being turned nto a natty little gunboat. In a few days then will be a number of other preparations made by the Navy Department which will make a big hole in the emergency fund of \$50,000,000.

Gen. Miles has asked Secretary Alger for authority to place the cavalry on a war footing. Similar requests have been granted in regard to the artillery. Gen. Miles wants 600 additional horses immediately, so that the troops may be equipped with full complements of men. It is ex pected that the horses will be bought and the cavalry troops enlarged by sufficient men to give each troop the number it would have in time of hostilities. Attention has also been called by Gen. Miles to the necessity of more field guns and rapid-fire guns, and if the guns

can be speedily secured the army will be sup The new posters which the Navy Departmen will send to the various naval recruiting sta tions will be handsome affairs. At the top will se half-tone cuts of the ill-fated Maine and the battleship Iowa, the most formidable ship in the United States Navy. These will be placed in the new stations already named in THE SUN Not since the war has the navy been obliged te solicit recruits. Reports from the offi-cers engaged in making enlistments are beginning to come in, and most of them are encouraging. Commander Hawley, who went to New Orleans with Chief Engineer Webster and Surgeon Parsons to make calistments, telegraphed to-day from that city that fifty capable men had been obtained. These rs will go to Chicago, Cleveland, Savannah, Charleston and other places before returnng to Washington. The recruiting stations or the Great Lakes have managed to secure only wenty-five men. Western stations are progress ing in their work. In this city twenty-three men

Columbia and the Minneapolis will be sent from the receiving ship Vermont at Brooklyn on Wednesday. To-day the enlisted force of the navy numbers 11,200.

The attendance of members of the Committee on Naval Affairs upon the proceedings of the House to-day, in connection with the passage of the Maine Relief bill, prevented them from com pleting consideration of the Naval Appropria tion bill in time to be reported to the House before adjournment, as had been their ex pectation. It was after 6 o'clock evening when the fragmentary text of the neasure was turned over to the clerks to be put into shape, and they labored on it until past midnight preparing it for the printer. If all

goes well, the bill will be reported to the House by Chairman Boutelle to-morrow. The principal features of the measure have been given in THE SUN as they were agree upon by the committee from time to time. The include three battleships, six torpedo boats and six torpedo-boat destroyers, five dry docks, and increase of the force of enlisted men and ap prentices in the navy from 11,750 to 13,750, ten additional assistant surgeons and fifteen additional paymasters, an Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, and the construction of a gunboat, with the consent of Great Britain. for service on the Great Lakes. The appropria tion, "Pay of the Navy," will be largely in creased, to provide for new men and boys whose enlistment is authorized.

YOUNG DOCTORS FOR THE NAVY. Three Hundred Applications Already Received by the Surgeon-Geogral.

Washington, March 21,-Three hundred ap plications have been received by the Surgeon General of the Navy from young doctors of the country willing to enter the service as acting assistant surgeons, but comparatively few wish to accept permanent commissioned rank. There is no authority of law to enlarge the medical corps by taking in acting surgeons, but the avidity displayed by doctors to join the ser vice in time of great emergency has been es pecially satisfactory to the department, which for several years has found that the comfortable berth of commissioned rank, with rabid promotion and fair pay, does not seem to tempt recent graduates of medical schools. The House Naval Committee has agreed to author ze the medical corps to be increased by fifteen more men, but the Surgeon-General declares that it will not be possible to secure them any more than it will be to fill twenty vacancies now exis ing until additional inducements are offered doctors to join the navy. He wants the rank of Junior Lieutenant given the recruits, so that they would be assured quarters in the ward room and not compelled to mess in the junior officers' quarters. The instant such a move is made, the engineers and pay officers will ask for the same and the head of the medical corps appreclates the futility of securing the required relief.

Dr. Van Reypen says that, if the country was forced to war, it would instantly become necessary to take on at least 100 new surgeons for an enlistment period of from six months to one year, but that in ordinary peace times and when no trouble threatens, the medical corps is badly crippled because of a failure to keep up the quota of its full strength.

There is one branch of the navy which is apparently more popular just now than all the rest if the number applying for service in it may be taken as a criterion. A place in the pay corps has always been in demand, chiefly because of the rapid promotion promised and the easy life pay officers have. Congress is expected to authorse an increase of the lower grade by 15 officers and applications are beginning to come in. Fifteen have, however, already passed creditable examinations in competition for two vacancies xisting last month, and will probably be pro vided for before other claims are considered. About the only other grade that has not received its share of applicants is that of chaplain. No need seems to exist for more "sky pilots," as the jackles call them, and no effort is to be made to increase their number.

TORPEDOES AT CIENFUEGOS.

light of Them Planted by the Spaniards at the

CIENFUEGOS, Cuba, March 15.-The port defences at Cienfuegos are nearly completed. Acording to the plans of the Spanish naval engineers sent here for that purpose, two lines of torpedo mines have been placed at the entrance of the port. The first line has three torpedoes and the second five. As the entrance to the port is very narrow, two steamers of considerable size being unable to pass at the same time, the people here feel confident that no American warship can enter Cienfuegos harbor but will be blown up at the entrance. "If a vessel escapes the first line of torpedoes," said a Spanish official to the correspondent, "how can she escape the second ?"

The torpedoes were brought from Hayana, and, according to Las Villas, they are as powerful as those placed in Havana Harbor by Gen, Weyler for the defence of the capital.

The Spanish Government is greatly disapointed by the conduct of some persons em ployed by Spanish agents to pose as insurgents and then surrender and accept autonomy. These persons were all young men of this city of a mewhat dissipated and gay life. After having spent the money they received for having sur endered after assuming the rôle of insurgents they left the city yesterday and joined the insurgent forces. They are Solo Iuba, who had already surrendered three times under different names, Riveron, the son of a tailor here, who had twice before surrendered, and Guerra, son of a notary public of this city, who had twice surrendered. Grau, son of a merchant of Cienfuegos, had also twice surrendered, and Noiles, son of another merchant, and twenty-five other appear to have surrendered only once, though this is the first time they have taken the field. They all declare now that as genuine insurgents their motto is "Independence or death." Señor Marcos Garcia, Spanish Autonomist Governor of the province of Santa Clara, has recrived an official notification from the insurgent army that he has been sentenced to death as a raitor to his country.

VIRGINIA BEADY FOR WAR. ov. Tyler Preparing to Upheld the President with Troops if a Call Comes.

RICHMOND, Va., March 21,-Gov. Tyler and resident McKinley have had a correspondence in regard to the part Virginia would take in the event of war. The Governor, through the Adjutant-General, has ascertained accurately the spirit of the State troops and found that the State guard would respond promptly to any call made upon them. The troops have been prepared quietly for any emergency and the quipment for life in the field put in order There is much enthusiasm among the colored troops in Virginia over the prospect of helpin the insurgents in Cuba. Two new companies of colored troops have been organized with view of active service in the field and the colored contingent will be a considerable factor if a call is made.

The fact that the Governor is in expectation of a call from the President was shown in the fact that, when the Governor left the city today on a steamer of the "oyster navy" for a tour of the Chesapeake to look after the needs of the oyster industry, he directed the Adjutant General not to leave the city, although he had called a meeting of 'a board at Lexington to morrow at which it is important for the Adjutant-General to be present. Virginia is ready to respond with 3,000 well-drilled and equipped troops on six hours' notice.

Take Notice then the april Harper's is now conty. You ought to

THE ARMY READY TO MOVE.

EFERY PREPARATION MADE TO MEET ANY EMERGENCY.

orders for the Mobilimation of Enfantry and Cavalry on the Atlantic and Gulf Consts Will Not Be Stuck Longer Delayed-Army Officers Studying the Topography of Cubs.

WASHINGTON, March 2L-Orders have already een prepared for transmission from the headquarters in Washington of the Major-General Commanding the Army, providing for the movement of all infantry and cavalry troops of the country to stations on the Atlantic and Gulf coast. These orders have been almost daily expected since the instructions were sent to the heads of military departments, about ten days ago, calling on them to make all neces preparations to move troops to the Atlantic eaboard on receipt of orders to that effect. The first radical step taken by the army admin stration, aside from the expenditure of funds for national defence, was the reorganisation of the military departments of the country, making two departments of the Eastern seaboard States and giving the new Department of the Gulf one of particular importance. In the event that orders are transmitted very soon for the general movement of troops, as now seems likely, it is expected that they will be assigned in large numbers to stations within the Department of the Gulf.

New evidences of the determination of the Government to be prepared to meet the exigency of immediate war were apparent at the War Department to-day The Bureau of Military Information is collecting the most complete facts in regard to the geography of Cuba and the outlying islands of the West Indies and of the Phillippines. The information is obtained from every source, public and private, which the department can com mand. As soon as received the facts are put in form for transmission to heads of military departments and posts for their instruction and for actual use in the field. The topography of all territory which could possibly be used as a field of operations in war with Spain is being carefully studied, and the strategic value of various loca tions in the territory is under thorough consideration. While the army administration is thus prosecuting vigorously the preparations for offensive operations in the field, the means for defending the country, especially on the eastern and southern coasts, still go on Plans for fortifications in several localities were discussed in a conference of the Secretary of War and engineer officers of the army to-day, and bids for supplying projectiles for see coast guns were opened in the Bureau of Ord Fifteen firms submitted proposals to manufacture 987 10-inch 800-pound solid shot, 910 12-inch 800-pound mortar shells, and 500 12-inch 1,000-pound mortar shells. The bidders were: The Payne Engineering Company of Elmira, N. Y.; Pottsville, Pa., Iron and Steel Company; Volk & Murdock Iron Company of Charleston, S. C.: Johnson Engi neering and Foundry Company, and Rearic Engineering Company of Columbus, O.; Davies & Thomas Company, Catasauqua, Pa.; the Phoenix Foundry Company of Lansdale, Pa.; the Tredegar Company of Richmond, Va.; the Vulcan Iron Company of Chicago; the West Point, N. Y., Foundry Company; the Wy man Machine Company of Lebanen, Pa. the Builders' Iron Foundry of Providence R. L; the West Side Foundry Company of Troy. N. Y.; W. P. Hunt, Boston, and the Petersburg, Va., Iron Works. The figures indicate that the lowest bid is that of the Peters burg Iron Works, which offered 10-inch shot at \$12.66 each, 12-inch 800 pound mortar shells at \$21.28, and 12inch 1,000-pound shells at \$23.97, but as the bidders had to give the time when they could deliver the projectiles, the award may not be made according to the lowest figures. This concern offers to have one-half of the solid shot read; in forty days and the remainder in seventy days. They will deliver fifty of the shells in forty days and the remainder at regular intervals thereafter. The Rome Machine Works offers for \$14.25 each to deliver all of the 10-inch solid shot in four weeks, and to start the delivery in one week. For the 800 pound shells they ask \$23.25 and for the 1,000-pound shells

prismatic powder for coast defense guns. The fortifications on the coast in general and of the Dry Tortugas in particular were the subject of a long conference to-day between Secretary Alger, Gen. Miles, Gen. John M. Wilson, Chief of Engineers; Col. Henry M. Robert, the army engineer in charge of river and harbor improvements on the Florida coast, and Assistant Secretary Roose velt, who represented the navy in the plans for the fortification of the Dry Tortugas. A serious difference of opinion has developed among officers of the army and navy in regard to the strategie value of the Dry Tortugas, and the army engineers have generally advised that no steps be taken to fortify the place. Gen. Wilson maintains that the island is not valuable as a military or naval point of vantage, and has expressed emphatic opposition to the scheme of fortifications. The Navy Department has prepared plans for a completely equipped naval base of supplies at Tortugas, and the army administration is being urged to afford the neces

\$25.25, to be delivered in from 70 to 120 days.

Bids will be opened to-morrow in the Bureau

of Ordnance for about 500,000 pounds of brown

sary land defences for the station. Keen disappointment is felb by Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt on account of the disinclination of the War Department to accede to the Navy Department's wishes. Sec retary Roosevelt laid before Secretary Alger and the engineer officers to-day the general plans of the navy for the equipment of Tortugas a a base of supplies, but the War Department officials refused to enter upon any scheme for fortifying the island at present. The plans of the Navy Department for a coaling station call for an expenditure of nearly \$1,000,000, and the department believes that such an outlay of money is amply justified by the importance of the loca tion. It was shown at the conference that such a system of defences as the secure protection of the stations calls for would require an expenditure of at least \$1,000,000 more by the War Department. Secretary Al ger and Chief of Engineers Wilson re fuse for the present to indorse such proposition. Plans for the fortification of Key West, the St. Johns River, and Tampa Bay were also considered at the conference, the projects being explained by Col. Robert, and it is probable that steps will be taken to protect these localities by expenditures from the emer gency funds at the disposal of the War Depart

1,000 BARRELS OF CEMENT A DAY The Government Pinces a Big Order for Use on Fertification

Easton, Pa., March 21.-The Alpha Portland Cement Works, at Whittager, to-day received orders from the Government for 1,000 barrels a iny of cement to be used for forts and batteries along the Atlantic coast. The order runs for one year. The Government wants a lotimmediately and the company is to send 2,000 and 3,000 barrels a day during the present emer-

infantry Coing from Atlanta to St. Augustine. ATLANTA, Ga., March 21.—Company B of the Fifth Regiment, at Fort McPherson, will leave Atlanta to morrow for St. Augustine, where it will relieve the company recently stationed

can be had on either of the limited trains of the Hew York Central between New York and Chicago, every day in the year. See time table in this paper,—ddt.

SPAIN HURBIES PREPARATIONS.

Determined to Fight Us Rather Than Sell of

Surrender Cobs. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUR.

MADRID, March 21 .- Despite the admitted conviction of all, except bluffers, that war with the United States would eventually result in the loss not only of Cuba, but of Porto Rico and the Philippine Talands, there is no wavering in the sermination to fight rather than to sell or surrender Cuba. Warlike preparations are being pushed vigorously. Transports leave al-

most weekly, conveying troops and munitions of war to Cube. The argenals at Ferral Cartagens and Cadiz are working night and day. Conscription and enlistment are active. Sefior Moret, Minister of the Colonies, shows no sign of abandoning his enthusiastic faith in autonomy as a means of restoring peace in Cuba, and, equally, he does not abandon hope that the United States will postpone any action

until autonomy has had what he regards as a fair trial. The supporters of Sefior Moret contend that Spain has yielded to every demand made by the United States, thereby acknowledging the justness of her demands, and that there are no more discredited men in Spain than Gen. Weyler and Señores de Lome and Robledo

THEY WANT TO BE PRIVATEERS 000,000 Spanish Patriota Would Like to En-

gage in the Business HAVANA, March 21 .- The Weylerist organ, El Correo, says that there is great enthusiasm all over Spain over the idea of engaging in privateering. It adds that in 1894 30,000 perons saked the Government for letters of marque. Now, El Corres says, the petitions to this end number over 200,000, which appears to be a somewhat exaggerated figure.

Henry Williams of Norfolk, Va., died at 6 P. M. to-day on board the American tug, Chief, of the Merritt Wrecking Company. He was member of the tug's crew. His death has caused grief and apprehension among the American sailors and divers in this port. Two days ago he

Dr. Dudley of the United States Marine Hos pital was summoned. He did not declare the case to be yellow fever, and the man improved rapidly under his treatment, but to-day he very suddenly died with strange symptoms. The crew was panicstricken, fearing that even if Williams did not die of yellow fever an epidemic of that disease is approaching. Capt. Sharp of the Merritt Company will ask

permission of Consul-General Lee to send Williams's body to Key West. His shipmates desire that he should be buried on American soil. A metallic coffin will be secured similar to those in which the bodies of the Maine sailors were sent to Key West. Two 6-inch guns and several valuable objects

from the dining room of the Maine were recov ered to-day. The work of the divers will be suspended to-morrow on account of the death of Williams. The press censor, Don Ramon Mendez, has

been appointed by the Conservative party candidate for Deputy in the Cortes from the district of Cardenas, Matansas province.

NAVAL MEN EXPECT WAR. Imperiant Secret Orders fald to Maye House

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., March 21 .- Several officers of the cruiser Brooklyn, now lying in the river off Newport News, were ashore to-day. One of the officers is an interview with THE Sun reporter said:

"Significant instructions, the nature of which I am not permitted to divulge, have been received here which point almost certainly to war. There is no longer doubt in the minds of officers as to the nature of the report of the Board of Inquiry regarding the Maine.

Outsiders cannot possibly have any idea of the enormous preparations now going on at the preparations mean that a vigorous campaign will be inaugurated against the Spaniards in case of a refusal to pay an indemnity. The actual instructions issued to the commanders of three divisions of the fleet now assembling are on a war basis."

CAN TURN OUT 1,000 RIFLES A DAY. Capacity of the Remington Arms Factory in the Event of War.

ILION, N. Y., March 21.-Two Government in spectors, one from the War Department and the other from the Navy Department, are here to inspect the Government work in progress at the Remington Arms Company's factory and to ascertain the capacity of the factory to turn out rifles for volunteers in the event of war. An order was received last week from Washington for 10,000 knife-bayonets for the marines Work on the order is progressing rapidly, and the bayonets will be ready for shipment within

"On a rush order," said Superintendent Hartley, "we can turn out 1,000 guns a day, work-ing two gangs of 500 men each ten hours. We have done that before, and are prepared to do it again. In 1888 we made 184,000 Lee rifles of .43 calibre for Spain, and I am told that these are still in use, although the principal equip ment of the Spanish Army is the Mauser .276.

DETROIT VISITS TAMPA.

After a Fow Mours' Stay the Cruiser Slips Away-Marblebond Sails.

TAMPA, Fla., March 21.-The cruiser Detroit alipped into Tampa Bay mysteriously last night and anchored within 200 yards of the cruises Marblehead and remained there for several hours. The commander of the Marblehead re-ceived the commander of the Detroit at the gangway and an interchange of courtesies followed. What occurred between the two comnanders could not be ascertained, but before the dawn the Detroit was again out of the bay and at sea. Nothing could induce the pilots of the bar to divulge the course taken by the De-

went porth or returned south. The Marblehead was at the docks here, taking on coal at one gangway and ammunition at another until 1:30 o'clock this afternoon. He cargo and stores being all on board, she sailed for Dry Tortugas to distribute them.

LEAGUE ISLAND ACTIVITY.

Condition of Naval Affairs at the Big Yard o the Belaware.

PHILADELPHIA, March 21.-Orders were received at League Island to-day directing Chief Engineer Conrad J. Habighurst of the receiving ship Richmond to go to the Columbia Iron Works at Baltimore and superintend the Government work in progress there. He will suc peed Engineer Albert C. Engard, who has been detailed to other work.

The Miantonomoh, Katahain, and Minneap lis are still taking coal. The Miantonomeh is expected to leave the yard for Key West at the lose of this week.

The equipments for Forts Delaware and Mot at Delaware City are being rapidly completed, and they will soon be strong enough to resent the onelaught of any foreign fleet. A 12-inch rifle has been sent to Fort Mott from Sands Hook and more are expected. Both forts are now garrisoned.

Points Water is Standard for Purity

THE REPORT ON THE MAINE.

IT WAS SUBMITTED TO ADMIRAL SICARD YESTERDAY.

Was Returned to Judge-Advecate Marky. Who Took It on Monrel the Bushvillo-It le on Logal Cap, to Six Inches Thick, and

Should Reach Wathinston on Thursday,

KEY WEST, Fla., March 21.-The report of the Board of Inquiry with the typewritten evidence was submitted formally to Admiral Sleard this afternoon and by him approved.

It was then (at about 5 o'clock) taken by

Judge Advocate Marix on board the cruiser Nashville. It is believed that the Nashville will sail with it for Tamps to-night. It should reach Washington early on Thursday. The surviving officers of the Maine now here

expect to go North via Miami to-marrow after-The Maine report, with the evidence, makes a pile of manuscript of the size of legal cap and

six inches high. After seeing the manuscript safely on its way in the hands of Judge Advocate Marix, the Ad-

miral and his wife went for a drive. When Judge Advocate Marix handed the ocument to Admiral Sicard be said:

"Sir, I have the bonor to submit to you the report of the Court of Inquiry convened by you to investigate the causes of the disaster to the battleship Maine in Havana harbor on Feb. 15."

The report was in the Admiral's care about six hours. Judge Advocate Marix, as he carried the report to the pier, was very cheerful, and there is a noticeable feeling of relief among the survivors of the Maine now at the hotel.

The Judge-Advocate of the Maine Board of Inquiry, Lieutenant-Commander Marix, came ashore this afternoon, with an armed orderly behind him and a considerable package, that looked like a bundle of legal papers, in his hand. Admiral Scard was notified of the presence of Marix, and the two officers went to the writing room of the Hotel Key West, and there, while the orderly stood at attention before the door, the package was delivered to the Admiral, who took it to his private room.

When Judge-Advocate Marix was asked if the package was the report of the board, he declined to answer. He raid, however, that the report had not yet been forwarded. The orderly said it was the report, but he did not, of course, know what was in it. It was said to-day, on authority, that the report would be completed and forwarded this week.

Two points of this report will be the entire exoneration of Capt. Sigsbee and all his crew from plame in the matter of the destruction of the Maine, and no Spanish official of any rank whatever will be charged with complicity in that destruction.

MUZZLING NEWSPAPERS.

A Warning Given to Madrid Correspondents

HAVANA, March 21.-The correspondents in Havana of the Madrid newspapers have been notified that they will not be allowed hereafter to cable anuthi American and Spanish warships.

The arrest for political causes of well-known persons continues in Havans. Senora Pi'ar Oliva de Charrera, a Cuban lady residing in the neighboring town of Managus, was arrested yesterday at her home and put in jail in Havana upon a charge of conspiracy against the Spanish Government.

The steamer traffic along the southern coast of Cuba has been interrupted. There is no way of communicating now by sea with Clenfuegos, Santiago de Cuba, or any other important city on that coast. The reason, as officially given to-day, is that all the steamers are engaged at present in military service. It ap-

pears that an extraordinary number of troops have been sent to the east. The steamer Adela left Havana to-day for Nuevitas, Puerto Principe, loaded with troops

and munitions of war. An insurgent band commanded by Lieut,-Col. Elias Figueroa last night de-troyed the railroad line between Madruga and Empalme, Havana province. The bridges were blown up with dynamite, and there is no communica

tion now between Havana and these places. The dinner given in the Hotel de Inglaterra by Mr. Stewart and Mr. Gautier to Consul-General Lee and some other friends was entirely of a social and private nature, in spite of all the rumors to the contrary put in circulation by the Spaniards in this city. Not a word on political matters was spoken. Messrs. Stewars and Gautier, who were said to represent the "American Annexation Trust," are here representing merely the commercial interests of some European firms. The attacks of the press on Miss Clars Barton are also unfounded and the above statements, which have been declared to be entirely satisfactory to the Spanish authorities, are allowed to be cabled by the

The floating dock will be tested to-merrow, the Alfonso XII. entering it instead of the Vis

The Spanish steamer Alfonso XIII. left today for Spain carrying 1,039 passengers, all Spanish residents of Havana, who, are returning to the mother country

A despatch from Madrid says that the Spanish Republicans, in a great mass meeting, have passed a resolution asking the Government to make every possible sacrifice in order to pacify Cuba. The Republican party considers that the prolongation of the war means ruin and devastation on both sides.

A horrible spectacle was presented to-day in a house of this city, where a widow named Lou-isa Hernandez is living. She had nine children, three of whom, one 7 years, another 6 years, and a baby four months old, died of starvation. The other six are also near their end from the same cause. The mother was found dying after a terrible attack of madness caused by hunger and despair. Her cries drew the attention of several persons who were passing in the

street and who entered the house But cases such as this are of daily occurrence in Havana among those who are too proud to beg, like the reconcentrados. Among the reconcentrados the famine continues to make terible ravages.

SAGASTA ILL.

The Spanish Cabinet Meeting Mas Seen Pool-pased Till To-Morrow.

Special Cable Despatch to Tan Sun. LONDON, March 2L.—A despatch to the Central News from Madrid says that Prime Minister Sagasta is slightly indisposed, and that as a re-sult the Cabinet meeting arranged to be held today has been postponed until Wednesday. The despatch adds that a rumor that the King is ill is officially and emphatically contradicted.

Champagne for the Esarcarge's Christoning NEWPORT, R. I., March 21.-Lieutenaut-Commander H. Winslow and Mrs. Winslow left here to-night for Newport News, where Mrs. Winslow to night for Aswhert awa, ware with a which is to be isunched on Thursday. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union have been trying to get Mrs. Winslow to use water for the chris-tening, but she said to-day that she would fol-low the custom and use champagne.

that the April Harper's is now ready. You ought up